

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123812

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, UNRWA

SUBJECT: UNRWA FUNDING CRISIS

REF: USUN 1647

1. DEPT VIEWS UNRWA FINANCIAL CRISIS WITH CONCERN AND
WE WISH SUPPORT SYG WALDHEIM'S APPEAL TO KING KHALED
(REFTEL), BOTH TO ENSURE IT RECEIVES HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION
WITHIN SAG AND TO ENCOURAGE FORTHCOMING RESPONSE. ACCORD-
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INGLY, YOU SHOULD SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH PRINCE SAUD

AND, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, CONVEY FOLLOWING ORAL POINTS:

2. USG IS CONCERNED THAT UNRWA'S FINANCIAL CRISIS WILL SOON LEAD TO CUTS IN UNRWA'S SERVICES WHICH WOULD HAVE DESTABILIZING EFFECTS IN THE ARAB HOST COUNTRIES AND A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE PEACE PROGRESS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SYG WALDHEIM HAS MADE AN APPEAL FOR HELP TO THE KING AND WE WOULD LIKE SAG TO KNOW THAT WE SUPPORT THAT APPEAL WHICH WE BELIEVE IS BASED ON A FAIR APPRAISAL OF THE SITUATION FACING UNRWA.

4. USG HAS REACTED TO UNRWA'S PROBLEM BY MAKING SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$16 MILLION IN ADDITION TO OUR REGULAR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$23 MILLION. WE CAN DO NO MORE AND TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE OTHER SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT LIKELY TO COME CLOSE TO MEETING UNRWA'S 1975 DEFICIT OF SOME \$24-30 MILLION (DEFICIT FIGURE TAKES ACCOUNT OF U.S. SPECIAL DONATIONS NOTED ABOVE).

5. AT THIS POINT, WITH UNRWA FACING COLLAPSE, WE WOULD HOPE SAG WOULD SEE IT IN ITS INTEREST TO MOVE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY FROM ITS PAST POSITION OF REFUSING SIGNIFICANT HELP TO UNRWA IN ORDER TO AVOID NEGATIVE EFFECTS NOTED ABOVE. MASSIVE SAUDI HELP TO PALESTINIANS IN WAY WHICH WOULD RELIEVE UNRWA DEFICIT, (APPROXIMATELY EQUAL TO U.S. REGULAR RPT REGULAR CONTRIBUTION), WOULD BE ACT OF LEADERSHIP AND COMPASSION WHICH WOULD HAVE TREMENDOUS FAVORABLE IMPACT ON U.S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION AND REPRESENT REAL CONTRIBUTION TO SEARCH FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. INGERSOLL

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